

Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Original) A lawn mower, comprising:

- a) a chassis assembly having one or more drive wheels;
- b) a ground-following cutter deck assembly attached to said chassis; and
- c) rolling or sliding means attached to said cutter deck, wherein said chassis and said cutter deck are arranged such that said rolling or sliding means and said drive wheels support said chassis for movement over a surface.

2. (Currently Amended) A lawn mower, comprising:

- a) a chassis assembly having one or more drive wheels;
- b) a ground-following cutter deck assembly attached to said chassis;
- c) rolling or sliding means attached to said cutter deck, wherein said rolling or sliding means is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) wheels;
 - ii) rollers;
 - iii) skids; and
 - iv) any combination of ~~i-iii~~ii-iii above; and

wherein said chassis and said cutter deck are arranged such that said rolling or sliding means and said drive wheels support said chassis for movement over a surface.

3. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is independently powered.
4. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is not independently powered.
5. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, further comprising a suspension system.
6. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 5, wherein said suspension system comprises one or more spring means between said chassis and said drive wheels.
7. (Original) The lawnmower of claim 6, wherein said spring means is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a coil spring;
 - b) a leaf spring; and
 - c) a torsion bar.
8. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 5, wherein said suspension system comprises one or more spring means between said chassis and said cutter deck assembly.
9. (Original) The lawnmower of claim 8, wherein said spring means is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a coil spring;
 - b) a leaf spring; and
 - c) a torsion bar.

10. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is capable of moving vertically up and down, substantially independently of vertical movement of an opposing drive wheel.
11. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is capable of moving vertically up and down, but not independently of vertical movement of an opposing drive wheel.
12. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein said cutter deck substantially functions as an axle means.
13. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 12, wherein said cutter deck is capable of moving vertically up and down, substantially independently of vertical movement of said chassis.
14. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein said rolling means substantially functions as a steering means.
15. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein said cutter deck and said chassis are capable of responding substantially independently of each others' reactions to ground contours.
16. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 6, further comprising means for adjustably precompressing said spring means.
17. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 8, further comprising means for adjustably precompressing said spring means.
18. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting a cutting height of said cutter deck.
19. (Original) The lawn mower of claim 1, further comprising means for lifting said cutter deck.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A lawn mower, comprising:

a chassis having one or more drive wheels;

a ground following cutter deck assembly, comprising:

a cutter deck frame coupled to the chassis;

a cutter deck coupled to the cutter deck frame; and

at least one wheel, roller, or skid coupled to the cutter deck frame; and

wherein the chassis is coupled to the cutter deck frame such that the chassis is supported by the at least one wheel, roller, or skid coupled to the cutter deck frame.

23. (New) The lawn mower of claim 22, wherein the chassis is coupled to the cutter deck frame by a suspension.

24. (New) The lawn mower of claim 23, wherein the suspension comprises a spring.

25. (New) The lawn mower of claim 24, wherein the suspension further comprises a linkage coupled between the chassis and the cutter deck frame.

26. (New) The lawn mower of claim 25, wherein the linkage comprises a parallel linkage.